

AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS

Attached is a proposed changes to Figure 16 illustrating the insertion and removal level 228.1 and the slot 244.

Drawing Objections

A new proposed FIG. 16 is submitted to remedy the objection pertaining to the drawings failing to show the slot insertion and removal level. The failure to show FIG. 24D as referenced on page 18 has been remedied by correcting the text to read FIG. 23D.

Claim Rejections – 35 USC § 112

The § 112 rejection as to claim 6 has been addressed by adding specificity to clearly identify each column as having a plurality of shelves, with the lengthwise orientation front to the backside and the orientation of the elongate protrusion toward each opposite shelf. Moreover similar amendments have been made to claims 7 and 8, which are now independent claims.

Claim Rejections – 35 USC § 102

Claim 6 has been amended to clarify that each shelf has two elongate protrusions. Such is not disclosed or suggested in the Japanese reference, JP 08-7637 nor any of the other references cited. The two beads illustrated in JP 08-7637 are on opposite sides, which would correlate to opposite shelves, not two on a single shelf.

Claim Rejections – 35 USC § 103

Claim 22 has also been amended to clarify that each shelf has two elongate protrusions. Such is not disclosed or suggested in the Japanese reference, JP 08-7637, nor in Gregerson, nor in any of the other cited references. The two beads illustrated in JP 08-7637 are on opposite sides, which would correlate to opposite shelves, not two on a single shelf. Thus, even combining these two references would not result in the claimed invention.

Application No. 09/523,745

In view of the foregoing, it is submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable consideration and prompt allowance of the application are respectfully requested.

The Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned if the Examiner believes it would be useful to advance prosecution.

Respectfully submitted,



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